

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT RANGOON 3009 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CINCPAC  
HONG KONG KUALA LUMPUR BANGKOK DEA/BANGKOK CHIANG MAI  
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END CONTENTS.

1. FIRST UNFDAC EQUIPMENT ORDERS PLACED (LOU)

THE UNFDAC BURMA NARCOTICS CONTROL PROJECT HAS PLACED ITS FIRST EQUIPMENT ORDER, ACCORDING TO A LOCAL U.N. OFFICIAL. THE ORDER IS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND IS WITH AN AMERICAN FIRM.

COMMENT: THE UNFDAC PROJECT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN MAY, AND THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT CONCRETE IMPLEMENTATION WORK HAS ACTUALLY GOTTEN UNDER WAY. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT VARIOUS GUB AGENCIES ARE DRAWING UP REQUESTS FOR OTHER EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, AND FURTHER ORDERS SHOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. LOCAL AMERICAN MOTORS REPRESENTATIVE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HIS FIRM EXPECTS TO PROVIDE AT LEAST 17 JEEPS UNDER THIS PROGRAM.

2. NARCOTICS: ARRESTS AND SEIZURES (UNCL)

IN THREE SEPARATE ACTIONS POLICE AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ARRESTED EIGHT PERSONS FOR POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS. AUTHORITIES SEIZED HEROIN VALUED AT (.105,000 AND OPIUM VALUED AT (.100,000 DURING THESE OPERATIONS.

3. NEW AMBASSADORS TO BULGARIA, NETHERLANDS, HUNGARY, ROMANIA AND IRAN (UNCL)

THE GUB HAS DESIGNATED ITS AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, U BA MAW, TO BE CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO BULGARIA AND ROMANIA; ITS AMBASSADOR TO WEST GERMANY, U CHIT MAUNG, TO BE CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS; ITS AMBASSADOR TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DR. BA MAUNG, TO BE CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO HUNGARY; AND ITS AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN, U TUU TIN, TO BE CONCURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO IRAN.

4. A NEW ERA FOR BURMA; (UNCL)

BURMA'S HOROSCOPE FOR THE CURRENT YEAR OF THE BURMESE ERA, 1338, SHOWS VERY POOR PROSPECTS IN STORE, AT LEAST FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF GOVERNMENT LEADERS -- THE PLANETS ARE IN A POSITION WHICH SUGGESTS THE FALL OF A DYNASTY. LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE ALSO COMMENTING THAT THE CURRENT YEAR OF THE BUDDHIST ERA, 2520, IS DIVISIBLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY ALL THE WHOLE NUMBERS ONE THROUGH NINE, AND THIS TOO IS SUPPOSED TO FOREBODE A MAJOR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT.

THE CAPTAINS' COUP PLOT MAY HAVE CAUSED GUB LEADERS TO PAY MORE HEED TO SUCH SIGNS THAN THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY DISPOSED TO DO. IN ANY EVENT, THE LATEST RANGOON RUMOR IS THAT THE AUTHORITIES ARE CONSIDERING CHANGING THE YEAR OF THE BURMESE ERA TO ONE WITH A LESS OMINOUS

HOROSCOPE. THIS WAS DONE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST BY BURMESE KINGS FACING A SIMILAR SITUATION. ALSO, THE RUMOR GOES, NE WIN WILL STAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY EITHER UNTIL THE NEW BURMESE ERA IS PROCLAIMED OR UNTIL 1338 GIVES WAY TO 1339 NEXT APRIL.

WHILE THE GOVERNMENT CAN CONTROL THE BURMESE ERA, THERE SEEMS TO BE NOTHING IT CAN DO ABOUT THE BUDDHIST ERA.

5. SALE OF BAC'S 727 (LOU)

REPORTEDLY THE BURMA AIRWAYS CORPORATION'S (BAC) 727 BOEING AIRCRAFT HAS BEEN SOLD TO A BRITISH FIRM FOR 2.5 MILLION DOLLARS. THE AIRCRAFT IS TO BE TURNED OVER BY 1 OCTOBER 1976. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS PROVIDE FOR THE BRITISH FIRM TO PAY THE SALE PRICE DIRECTLY TO THE FOKKER CORPORATION. THIS ARRANGEMENT MAY BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH A POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF AN ADDITIONAL F-28 AIRCRAFT BY BAC.

6. BOAC TO STOP SERVING RANGOON (LOU)

THE LOCAL BRITISH AIRWAYS MANAGER CONFIRMED TO THE EMBASSY THAT BOAC WILL STOP FLIGHTS INTO RANGOON AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 1976. THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE LAST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AIRLINE SERVING RANGOON, COUPLED WITH THE SALE OF UBA'S 727, MEANS A SHARP DECREASE IN THE AMOUNT OF AIRFREIGHT THAT CAN BE SHIPPED IN AND OUT OF BURMA.

7. COOPERATIVE COUNCIL MEETING (UNCL)

BURMA'S CENTRAL COOPERATIVE SOCIETY COUNCIL MET AT RANGOON AUGUST 27-30. PRIME MINISTER U SEIN WIN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER U LWIN AND OTHER TOP GUB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIALS ADDRESSED THE MEETING. THE GUB ENVISAGES A MUCH LARGER ROLE FOR COOPERATIVES IN THE FUTURE. CO-OPERATIVES ARE TO TAKE OVER A LARGER SHARE OF PRODUCTION, TRADE AND TRANSPORTATION, MAINLY FROM GUB ENTERPRISES. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT, FARM COOPERATIVES ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE GUB IS ADHERING TO THE DIRECTIVES OF ITS 20-YEAR PLAN WHICH CALL FOR 50 PERCENT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION TO BE IN THE COOPERATIVE SECTOR BY 1994. THE COUNCIL APPROVED SIX RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR:

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1976-77 ECONOMIC PLAN;
2. FORMATION OF PRODUCTION COOPS;
3. DEVELOPMENT OF PILOT COOPERATIVE FARMS;

4. EXTENSION OF BROKING HOUSE BUSINESS AND CROP PURCHASE;
5. EXTENSION OF TRANSPORT SERVICES; AND
6. SMOOTH DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS BY INSTANT CLEARING-SYSTEM.

COMMENT: THE GUB'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION T PURSUE THE FORMATION OF FARM COOPERATIVES COULD NEGATE THE RECENT PROGRESS IT HAS MADE IN TAKING A NUMBER OF SMALL PRAGMATIC STEPS TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PODUCTION.

8. WORLD BANK MISSION IN RANGOON (UNCL)

A WORLD BANK TEAM HAS BEEN IN RANGOON FOR THE PAST TEN DAYS DISCUSSING RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN BURMA, THE LATEST WORLD BANK REPORT ON BURMA'S ECONOMY AND PLANS FOR THE UPCOMING CONSULTATIVE GROUP MEETING FOR BURMA SCHEDULED FOR TOKYO IN NOVEMBER. MISSION MEMBERS TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS THEY WERE PLEASED AND ENCOURAGED BY RECENT GUB ATTEMPTS TO IMPLEMENT ECONOMIC REFORM, PARTICULARLY PRICE REFORMS.

9. PRISONERS RELEASED (UNCL)

THE BURMESE ARMY HAS ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE OF OVER FIFTEEN HUNDRED CIVILIAN PRISONERS, SOME OF WHICH HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE 1974. THE FREED MEN AND WOMEN WERE BEING HELD ON A VARIETY OF CHARGES, BOTH POLITICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND CRIMINAL. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE AN EXACT BREAKDOWN, SINCE THE DATA RELEASED BY THE GUB ARE CLEARLY INACCURATE. COMMENT: HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS WERE CITED AS THE REASON FOR THE RELEASES, BUT THIS MAY BE A GENERAL DECK-CLEARING BEFORE MARTIAL LAW IS ENDED IN RANGOON.

10. GUB FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATTEND UNGA (UNCL)

FOREIGN MINISTER U HLA PHONE AND TWO AIDES WILL TRAVEL TO THE 31ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK.

11. GUB LAYS DOWN GUIDELINES ON LITERATURE AND FILMS (UNCL)

IN TWO ACTIONS, GUB HAS RE-EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO PRESERVE AND PROMOTE CULTURAL IDENTITY AND TO ENSURE SERVING THE INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE AND SOCIALISM. FIRST, THE CENTRAL PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS REGISTRATION BOARD, AN ARM OF THE HOME MINISTRY, ANNOUNCED CRITERIA FOR JUDGING LITERATURE ON THE BASIS OF DETRIMENTAL EFFECT TO BURMESE WAY TO SOCIALISM, NATIONAL SOLIDARITY OR SECURITY; WHETHER IT CONTAINS INACCURACIES, PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL, SLANDER,

MATTER HARMFUL TO MORAL CHARACTER OR MATERIAL "TANTAMOUNT TO PROPAGATING POLITICAL AND IDEOLOGICAL OUTLOOK OR INDIVIDUAL AFFAIRS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY." TWO DAYS LATER, INFOMIN U LWIN MET WITH MOPIX PERSONNEL AND MOVIE STARS TO EMPHASIZE THEIR ROLE IN CONSERVING BURMA'S NATIONAL IDENTITY AND THE GREATER ENLIGHTMENT AND AWARENESS OF THE PEOPLE. U LWIN SET DOWN A NINE-POINT POLICY, INCLUDING POINTS ON THE FOSTERING OF ACTIVITIES CONDUCIVE TO THE SOCIAL SYSTEM, PRESERVATION OF BURMESE CULTURE AND UNITY AND "TO AGITATE AND EDUCATE THE PEOPLE TO ORIENT THEIR IDEAS, OPINIONS AND ATTITUDES TOWARD THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION."

NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS AND COLUMNISTS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BOTH MOVES "TO CREATE CONDITIONS FOR LONG TERM NATIONAL WELL-BEING AND TO AVOID MISUSE OF CULTURE TO UNDERMINE WHOLESOME DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY."

IN ADDITION, ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCES, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOME MINISTRY HAS FORWARDED T THE FOREIGN OFFICD STANDARDS FOR THE SCRUTINIZATION OF BOOKS AND LITERATURE PUBLISHED BY FOREIGN MISSIONS. GENERALLY FOLLOWING THE CRITERIA PREVIOUSLY LAID DOWN FOR WRITERS AND MOTION PICTURE PERSONNEL, THE GUIDELINES ALSO INCLUDE SANCTIONS AGAINST WRITING MATERIAL DETRIMENTAL TO THE INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY OF BURMA OR "COLD WAR" ATTACKS ON OTHER COUNTRIES. OSBORN UNQTE. ROBINSON

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